

# TASMANIAN

# U F O

# Report



# T U F O I C



# TASMANIAN UFO REPORT - 1995

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## TUFOIC EXECUTIVE 1995

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## SIGHTINGS TELEPHONE NUMBER

23 6009 or 25 4054 (Area code 002)

## MEETINGS

Meetings are held in Hobart quarterly,  
 generally on the first Thursday of the month.

### **Dates for 1995:**

**Thursday:** March 2nd, June 1st, & September 7th,  
 Starting at 7.30 PM

**Friday,** December 1st, Starting at 6.00 PM

Meetings are held at the GLENORCHY LIBRARY  
 Meeting rooms, Terry Street, Glenorchy.  
 Meetings are open to all members and friends,  
 and to the general public.

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## TASMANIAN STATISTICS

YEAR	REPORTS	UNIDENTIFIED	IDENTIFIED
Pre 1965	130	29	101
1965	24	13	11
1966	34	15	19
1967	17	5	12
1968	31	8	23
1969	62	14	48
1970	45	8	37
1971	97	23	74
1972	69	15	54
1973	136	26	110
1974	161	57	104
1975	182	50	132
1976	192	43	149
1977	156	39	117
1978	178	32	146
1979	152	19	133
1980	63	11	52
1981	87	10	77
1982	62	18	44
1983	64	9	55
1984	45	8	37
1985	88	12	76
1986	85	11	74
1987	71	9	62
1988	108	19	89
1989	90	10	80
1990	44	6	38
1991	45	5	40
1992	77	14	63
1993	83	4	79

## 1994 Statistics

Unidentified	9
Aircraft	11
Astronomical	29
Balloons Etc.	11
Ground Lights	4
Hoax / Noise	4
Insufficient Info./Under Investigation	9
Meteorological	5
Satellites	9
<b>TOTAL REPORTS</b>	<b>91</b>

### THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF TUFOIC:

To conduct investigations into Tasmanian UFO reports.  
 To collect and examine information on the UFO phenomena.  
 To distribute that which is considered authentic to members and fellow UFO organisations in Australia, and overseas via the Tasmanian UFO report, Newsletters and other special publications, and to the general public via publications and the media.

### MEMBERSHIP OF TUFOIC:

Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Centre, and who have a serious interest in the UFO phenomena.  
 Further information and a sample Newsletter may be obtained upon request by writing to the Membership secretary, or by sending a NetMail message to the FidoNet address.  
 Information may also be obtained by attending meetings.



# 1994 IN REVIEW

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It was a year of two halves, the first six months the Centre was almost at a standstill, only an unexplained case in February broke the drought on UFO cases that had held sway since the previous May (1993). We did of course pick up another February case from the North East but this did not come to our attention until late in the year,

Incoming calls to the Centre were at a record low level in the first months of the year, but just "took off" after June. The red lights affair over Hobart during July-August and their attendant publicity brought a steady flow of calls.

When all had been recorded and analysed the lights appeared to have had a "man-made" source. All the reports pointed to the lights originating from the New Town Bay area, with sightings from both sides of the Derwent as the lights drifted down-river on the prevailing breezes. Investigators elsewhere in Australia reported similar incidents in the past year from Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. Police in Broken Hill were even lucky enough to find one of the lights come to earth. The device was a garbage bag with fire lighters, the hot air lifting the garbage bag which then floats until the fire lighters go out.

UFO sightings Australia wide appear to have fallen away after a surge in reports during 1993, although a spokesman for the UFO-Hotline claimed they had at times received numerous reports. The source for some of their reports may have been due to meteor or space-debris re-entries. The Centre received an interesting list of cases from Moira McGhee of INUFOR from New South Wales, they have had a number of interesting cases during the year and are following up reports across Australia

(see Australian sightings list). One of the main centres of interest later in the year was at Wycliffe Well, in the Northern Territory, the location of a series of encounters during September-October. Paul Jackson was able to make direct contact with the owner of the road-house at Wycliffe Wells for recorded information on the sightings.

Abductions also became, as in the United States, a point of investigation and debate, Keith Basterfield of UFO Research Australia resigned his position in order to set up his own Abduction Group. Meanwhile Phenomena Research Australia from Victoria reported they were investigating a significant UFO abduction case which incorporated independent witnesses. The August 1993 report from the Victorian Dandenongs was covered in the International UFO Reporter, the official journal of the Centre for UFO Studies in Chicago. The article was by Bill Chalker, another of Australia's leading researchers into UFO sightings.

The Centre received favourable media coverage during the year, especially with reports on the red lights during mid-year. The Hobart Mercury and Launceston Examiner covered the sightings of the lights, as did ABC radio with their news coverage.

Membership to the Centre has been stable with meetings being held each quarter. Treasurer Paul Jackson is managing a fund raising venture which has enabled the Centre to logon to the Paranet, and Mufonet computer Networks. The download of data, which is quite considerable, will enable the Centre to keep abreast of up to date information, both local and overseas.

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# TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS 1994

The most notable sighting for the year was the also the first, the report from North East Tasmania occurred in the early hours of February 2nd in the rural country West of Scottsdale, The witness did not report the sighting to the Centre until later in the year. However, this was due to the witness being unaware there was a Centre to report the sighting to. Later in the year publicity on sightings gave the witness the opportunity to report the incident.

At the time of the report Mrs S was living near Blumont, across the road to the North was another farm with a ridgeline some half a kilometre behind. On the sighting form Mrs s described the sighting. "I had been asleep in bed ,when suddenly I woke up, wide awake. Looking out the window at the head of the bed I could see a light. Half a kilometre away above the ridge was the light I had first noticed hovering above the trees. It was a circular to oval shape, it was brilliantly lit with what seemed to be twinkling lights. It was moving fairly slowly along the treeline in a westerly direction. At first I thought it was a helicopter or a plane, but I could not hear any sound. At that distance and on a clear still clear night I should have heard it, if it had any sound. It moved along and then stopped, and a light beam or spotlight shone down from underneath as if scanning the trees. Then the light went off and it moved a little further on, sometimes moving up a little and then down again, then the beam came on again. This happened about four to five times while I was watching. I watched for as long as I could out of the bedroom window, then I moved into the bathroom on the West side of the house to continue watching, I eventually lost sight of it due to the trees on that side of the house. I estimated it would have gone over the township of Nabowla or just past it. All of this took about 8 minutes. I had wanted to go out into the paddock to get a clear view but decided against it with a strange fearful thought. I was not sure what I had seen, but I knew it could not have been any aircraft I knew of, due to its silence I finally decided I had seen a true unidentified flying object".

Mrs S says the object had the apparent size of a 1 cent piece at arms length. The lights on the object were a variety of colours, blue, green, yellow, and red lights all blending together, The light beam was whitish and seemed to move about a bit as if searching the ground below.

The beam spread out in a fan shape below. The object moved slowly but also seemed to stop a number of times.

Interestingly a possible second event took place the same night, the Centre is still hoping to follow up for further information. A motorist sighted a light whilst travelling in the same district, then

finding his arrival time at home having taken an extra one and half hours longer than normal for the trip.

Another report dating from February from a Northern property has also recently come to our attention. Follow up on this case is still to be completed, but a Nocturnal Light has been seen a number of times at low-level on the property. At one stage the light is reported to have followed one of the farm tractors which was being used for work late one night.

## Nocturnal Lights

The balance of the years reports were all of Nocturnal Lights, spread from February through to December. Most attention on the UFO scene is focused on the Abduction report despite the fact that even some of the lowly light cases still defy explanation.

The first light report was from the Midlands area of Lemont about 3.30am on February the 13th. A father and son out on a hunting trip were just returning to camp when they saw a large luminous light low to the north west. The witnesses still had their spotlight beam pointing into the sky. As the light in the sky seemed to be approaching, they turned off their spotlight as it looked to be attracting the light. The light appeared to be moving in an erratic manner with some zigzags, but it was now apparent it was passing more to the south west, After being in view for some 5 minutes the light sped off into the south west sky and was lost from sight.

Ms T was driving between Bicheno and Swansea on the stormy evening of July 31st, it was about 6.30pm and already dark. A very large bright yellow to orange light appeared low in the south eastern sky. The light had an apparent size of almost a full moon but was egg shaped. As she travelled along the road the object did not appear to move, it was soon obscured by a roadside hill, and on coming out the other side of the hill Ms T was unable to locate the light again. Checks revealed no astronomical explanations for the sighting.

Also late in July or early August another report came from the East Coast, this time from Elephant Pass. Mr L says he was driving home on the Pass at 8.27pm when directly ahead he saw a round orange to reddish light. The light looked to be around half moon sized (apparent). Once again the light did not seem to move as Mr L drove along, as in the previous case it was obscured by trees and was just not visible when Mr L had a clear view again.

Three light cases then occurred on August 9th. Mr G was going home to his flat in Launceston soon after midnight when he noticed an orange light towards the Eastern Suburbs. The light was moving



from east to west in the northern sky. Then the light turned and headed north towards Mowbray before becoming stationary in the sky. Finally the orange light started to lose its brightness and faded out, just before the light faded the witness thought he could see two little white lights. No sound was heard during the 10 minutes the light was visible.

Later the same morning a brilliant white light was reported by two Kingston witnesses. A bright light was seen over the South Arm peninsula at a low elevation. The light was not moving and was quite clear in a break between the clouds. After some 3 to 4 minutes the light suddenly moved away towards the south, vanishing behind a cloud. The candidate to explain the sighting would be an aircraft, the only problem was that the Civil Aviation Authority had no air traffic in the area.

Finally to round off the day an evening report came from Cairns Bay at about 6.20pm. The witness was taking the dog out when a white starlike light was seen moving away to the north east. The light seemed to be travelling with a jagged flight path and after 5

minutes was obscured by cloud. No sound was heard at the time. Once again the Civil Aviation could only say it was not a normal flight path area for civilian aircraft.

The last Nocturnal Light report was on December 10th at 10.50pm. Once again the witness was putting his dog outside, this time at Grove. Two starlike lights could be seen crossing the eastern sky from south east towards the north west. The a third light was noticed following the first two but at some distance. The first two light almost side by side had by now faded away towards the north west so the witness was able to concentrate on the remaining light. The third light travelled maybe half the distance of the first two lights, then it just suddenly reversed direction returning back along its original path back to the south east. The witness estimates it took some two minutes to travel out of sight, it looked to be travelling faster on the return movement. Enquiries with Astronomical contacts could not bring forward a ready explanation for the reversing light.

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## UFOs IN FOCUS

By Jenny Randles

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February and April 1991, Birchwood Mall, Warrington, Cheshire.

A case that has received the most attention from investigators in the past two years. A considerable amount of time and effort has been expended on it, and while we have possible solutions, no definitive conclusion has been reached. It remains a UFO.

The location of the incident is Birchwood Shopping Mall, a major complex four miles east of the town of Warrington, Cheshire, and immediately adjacent to the M6 motorway, one of the busiest freeways in the United Kingdom. I happened to live in Birchwood for some years during the 1980s. I lectured at the local library and did classwork with the local schools, so the manager of the shopping centre was aware of me. It was he who made the decision to bring me into the case a few days after the initial sighting. That had been just after 1 o'clock one morning in February 1991.

One of several security cameras at the site had picked up a white light-seemingly about tennis-ball sized-moving around an open walkway. It appeared to inspect a garbage bin, then climb a wall and at one point come close to the security camera. The security guard zoomed into it, revealing a white doughnut shape. This shape finally flew away, hovered over a tree to the south by the railway station, and then vanished. The camera had moved through about 90 degrees to capture these shots, and about eight minutes had elapsed (the object is not visible all the time). The guard told Pete Hough,

Roy Sandbach, and me that he could see the ball even when the video failed to record it. But he decided not to risk losing it by leaving his office and taking the trek out to the location where the camera was set up.

We decided to use this case as a good way to build bridges with the skeptics movement. The British and Irish Skeptics (our equivalent to America's Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal) are strong in the Northwest; their house journal *The Skeptic* is published in Manchester. They have many scientists associated with them and are always happy to speak up when some UFO cases crumble. Here we had solid evidence of something undefined. Nobody was suggesting we were dealing with an alien craft-unless it contained very little green men-but it was by all definitions a UFO. Just the kind of puzzle you would expect scientists to take up eagerly.

So we arranged with Steve Donnelly from Salford University to set up a private seminar at Manchester University. He invited three or four key members of the British skeptics community, and three or four principal investigators also attended. We spent the time screening the video, doing careful analysis, and looking for a way forward and for possible answers.

In fact, investigation was complicated. The system in use sampled images from several cameras in sequence, then compressed these onto a three hour tape to record a full day's camera images. Thus the relevant sequences had to be slowed way down



and separated out to give a jerky picture of what was been seen.

We had already thought up various suggestions. The most likely was a luminous insect caught by the infrared beam used by the camera as a way to illuminate the surroundings in the dark. We thought that the close up images might result from an out-of-focus shot of the insect. Perhaps significantly, the Risley Moss nature reserve - with some unusual insect life - was virtually next door to the shopping mall. On the other hand, all the staff we interviewed insisted they had never seen such an effect before-a fact that seemed hard to equate with a common stimulus. It was also noted that it was mid February and so still winter, and few if any insects should be around.

The transparent soap-bubble feel to the image led to various suggestions by the assembled scientists that the UFO may be unreal or optical, in other words formed inside the camera. Again the UFO's transient nature provided a problem for that hypothesis, but we performed various suggested tests, which came out negative, and so it was back to the drawing board. Steve Donnelly told me of some fun experiments he tried with his children, video-recording soap bubbles, but these led nowhere. After that the skeptics fell silent.

In the meantime-on April 26, 1991-the case was turned on it's head. A second camera at the site pointing in an entirely opposite direction and from a location several hundred yards from the first recorded what seemed to be the same object. This ruled out the likelihood of a camera fault but resurrected the luminous-insect theory.

On this occasion the object was filmed for much longer (almost 20 minutes) as it moved across the ground, passed by a road sign, and finally climbed onto the roof of the mall and vanished into the sky above the M6 motorway. In close range it filled almost a quarter of the screen, though most of the time it remained a small white ball. Recalling our discussion about the infrared spot beam, the camera operator had purposefully let the object enter the beam and then switched it off. The light vanished. He then switched it back on again, and the object reappeared.

This effect clearly demonstrated that the object was glowing as a result of interaction with the

infrared beam-which ruled out optical effects but did not tell us what its source was. An insect did appear much the favourite option at this stage.

Despite the failure of the skeptics to assist, we continued to seek help. David Reynolds, a meteorologist then at Swansea University, told us that he had seen similar effects when external lights had reflected at odd angles from a camera system he and colleagues were using in the field. Perhaps this image was what they had witnessed: a car headlight out of shot bouncing off the lens. But the second video clip where angles are quite different may refute this notion.

We had also noticed the similarity with a piece of video taken in Kent. For a time meteorologists had suspected the image in view was ball lightning. In the end it was discovered that the dark central hollow in the "bubble" of light that was filmed had resulted from a zoom-angle out-of-focus image of part of the camera lens system. The same result may be in operation with the Birchwood video to create the dark patch amid the soap bubble.

I spoke with security team in June 1993, more than two years after the second sequence was taken. The object had not reappeared, even though the cameras were being permanently manned. This fact argues against the insect theory. On the other hand, after the security guard and I appeared on a network TV show screening the video, a former security guard from Birchwood Mall called me to say that during his time at the shopping complex he had seen the same effect a couple of times and in his opinion it was an insect.

Whether this case ever comes to resolution or remains unexplained, I think it says something interesting about the skeptics organisation. The skeptics were given the chance to work with Ufologists to try to crack a case. After very limited effort they simply gave up. Not one word about the matter has appeared in their journal, which frequently derides UFO cases. One imagines that had they helped to resolve this matter, we would never have heard the end of it.

*from The International Reporter  
Nov/Dec 1993.*

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**The TUFOIC Library is situated at**

**Deja vu Books**

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**Phone 002 - 23 4766**

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# AUSTRALIAN UFO REPORTS - 1993/1994

Date	Time	State	Type	Location	Remarks	So
Oct 17	01.00	QLD	NL	Stanthorpe	Bright full moon LIT at tree top level, overcast sky, moves away East	2
Nov 11	20.15	NSW	NL	Brisbane Waters	2 Orange flames, equidistant, move, hover together.	1
12	23.00	NSW	NL	Batemans Bay	Grey egg object + LITS. Zigzag moves and buzz noise.	1
Dec 25	21.10	NSW	NL	Gunedah	Bright orange LIT going slow/low elevation to NW.	1
31	Nite	WA	CE1	Yanchep	Metallic object with LITS follows motorist, frightened.	3
Jan 1	05.30	VIC	CE1	Ballarat	Large object + flashing LITS, hovers at side of road.	1
2	21.30	NSW	NL	Budgewoi	Bright orange LIT below cloud, going SW, then East.	1
7	00.45	QLD	NL	Loganholme	Red ball over trees, moves behind hill, reappears with 2nd ball	2
12	22.00	VIC	CE2	Lake Mokoon	Bright object over lake, shines down beam, then follows witnesses vehicle	3
19	02.00	WA	CE2	Madura	Blue LIT follows/then approaches car, engine nearly cuts out	4
23	04.30	SA	NL	Glencoe	Large object with amber LITS, fast, then slow away to NE.	1
24	Nite	SA	CE2	Adelaide	Youth sees UFO outside, 2.4m circle found later outside child's room	4
28	18.00	SA	DD	Nth Adelaide	4 people see cigar object hover left to right, at 500ft, away over hill.	4
Feb 2	01.30	TAS	CE1	Blumont	Oval object with beam moving over hilltops, goes away to west	5
9	03.00	SA	CE1	Tumby Bay	Oval object with panel above low over dunes seems to land	4
13	03.30	TAS	NL	Lemont	Bright white light approaches and moves away in erratic path.	5
Mar 2	22.30	Qld	NL	Booval	Red LITS circle each other over the period of an hour.	2
17	02.50	WA	CE1	Norseman	Bright green LIT paces truck for 20 seconds, just above trees.	3
18	20.50	VIC	NL	Pheasant Creek	Bluish doomed disc hovered for 20 mins, pinkish top.	3
21	20.50	SA	NL	Strathalbyn	Orange object moving SE to E then back to SE, then goes off over hills	4
22	17.20	VIC	DD	Cranbourne	Bell object with many white lights, just off ground, went NE.	3
26	20.15	VIC	NL	Healsville	4 round objects, seperate, move together, pulse, disappear near horizon.	3
Apr 3	00.30	SA	NL	Stockport	White/red/green/blue lights, erratic moves, then goes behind hill to West	4
3	19.20	VIC	NL	Nar-Nar-Goon	Star like object crossed sky in zigzag, 8 witnesses.	3
5	04.30	VIC	DD	Baringhup	Oval object plus ring of red/blue lights, circling movements above tree line.	4
10	21.55	NSW	NL	Hilltop	Small discs C/W, beams onto ground.	1
May 4	20.05	VIC	NL	Mildura	Cluster of 3/4 lights, many erratic movements across sky, stayed in group	3
7	Night	QLD	NL	Noosa	Bright light with red shafts reaching to the ground.	2
8		QLD		Peregian Beach	UFO reported, light seen coming down in scrub, nothing found.	2
8	03.00	NSW	NL	St Marys	Brilliant white object, fast N to S. Shock wave affected cars.	1
10	04.00	QLD	CE1	Tewantin	Light with bright red glow follows motorist, moved each side of car.	2
19	21.45	VIC	NL	Ringwood	White/yellow light, stationary, goes to SE, then switches off.	3
24		QLD		Yandina	Two brightly coloured object seen, they had an orange glow.	2
26	13.15	VIC	DD	Richmond	White round object on edge, came from behind trees, went into clouds.	3
June	Nite	NSW	CE1	Bega	Motorist followed by light, light surrounds car, motorist scared.	3
June	Nite	NSW	DD	Bega	Reports of orange night lights and daytime football object with windows.	3
5	15.45	NSW	DD	Baulkham Hills	Silver/black object, moving slowly, video taken.	1
15	02.40	NSW	CE2	Merrylands	Bright green light. Hovered. Power cuts, dogs beserk.	1
15	10.45	NSW	DD	Nth Entrance	White object 2 red LITS below, erratic. Follows plane.	1
19	02.00	QLD	NL	Woodhill	Pulsing gold LIT, hovered/rocked. took off at speed to west.	1
July	Nite	NSW	CE2	Broken Hill	Small LIT with tail, hovers near house, water pressure effected.	4
1	00.00	SA	NL	Victor Harbour	Orange object with lines, goes NW. Videoed by motorist.	4
3	03.00	VIC	NL	Heidelberg	White oval object erratic flight path, darting about, seen 20secs.	3
5	23.50	SA	NL	Kingston on Murray	2 orange/yellow LITS followed motorist, then flew off at speed.	1
11	21.55	NT	CE1	Kingtor	Orange white ball with 2 blue/green beams approached then moved away	1
20	14.10	NSW	DD	Penrith	2 dome object came from west, make horseshoe turn and leave fast to W	1
24	04.30	VIC	CE3	Melbourne	Triangle object with orange LITS follows car, possible CE3 encounter	8
31	18.30	TAS	NL	Apslawn	Large bright orange/yellow object reported stationary to SE.	5
Aug	20.27	TAS	NL	Gray	Large reddish/orange light stationary to NW.	5
6	22.35	WA	NL	Dandarigan	3 moonsized yellow/orange LITS, hovered, light shinning down.	1
7	20.10	SA	NL	Cocklebidy	Teardrop large white LIT, follows 3 large road trains.	1
9	00.23	TAS	NL	Launceston	Orange light, comes from east, stops in northern sky and fades.	5
9	08.00	TAS	DD	Kingston	Bright white light to east, stationary, then moves away to south.	5
9	18.20	TAS	NL	Cairns Bay	Erratic white light seen for about 5 minutes, moving NE.	5
14	20.10	QLD	NL	Bajool	Large white LIT above mountain, moves up/down. Responds to torch flashes.	1
23	21.15	NSW	NL	Gorokan	Large red/orange LIT, flashed orange beam. moved back/forth in sky.	1



27	20.00	NSW	NL	Nth Newcastle	Enormous object with 6 lights below, moved quickly, then hovered.	1
29	19.15	NT	CE2	Wycliffe Wells	Glowing white ball descends towards car, engine fails.	6
30	21.40	SA	CE1	Ouyen	Yellow light, very bright, followed car for 20 minutes.	1
31	21.14	NSW	NL	Jasper Bush	Huge white teardrop light at treetop level, shoots off at great speed.	1
Sep 3	Nite	NT	CE2	Wycliffe Wells	Dark object with beam paces car for 30 mins.	7
4	Nite	NT	NL	Wycliffe Wells	Two bright lights perform erratic movements across sky.	7
7	Nite	NT	NL	Wycliffe Wells	5 orange balls + red and green lights in N, S, E and W.	2
10	02.00	NT	NL	Wycliffe Wells	Two witnesses watch large orange ball cross sky 2km away.	2
15	Nite	NT	NL	Devils Marbles	Large object seen releasing smaller balls of light.	2
20	19.00	NT	NL	Wycliffe Wells	Light moving at great speed, then moves in stops and starts.	2
Oct 15	23.15	WA	NL	Tom Price	2 large orange lights with flames. Travelled W to E. Multiple witnesses.	1
Nov 6	04.00	NSW	NL	Ulladulla	Many yellow glows moving north with 7 green balls hovering.	1
15	Nite	NSW	CE1	Mendoran	CE with diamond shape near ground level.	9
24	23.00	NSW	NL	Tregear	Red rimmed round orange object with white lights. Goes to NE. Video taken.	1
Dec 10	22.50	TAS	NL	Grove	3 LITs crossed sky. 1 reversed path	5
15	03.00	WA		Perth	Security guards followed by bright orange object, size of semi-trailer	6

• LIT = Light in Sky

#### Source of reports:

1. © INUFOR/ M.McGhee 1115
2. UFO Research Qld.
3. Victorian UFO Research.
4. Australian International UFO FSR.
5. Tas UFO Investigation Centre.
6. Herald Sun.
7. L.Farkas.
8. Womas Day.
9. W. Chalker

### VLADIMIR GODIC - (1926 - 1995) - A Tribute

Vladimir Godic passed away suddenly on Sunday, January 29th, at Cairns, Queensland.

His passing has taken from us a fine person and a great contributor to UFO research in Australia. His impact will be felt for years to come.

Born in Yugoslavia, Vladimir emigrated to Australia in 1949.

He began a serious interest in the UFO mystery during the late 1940s immediately in the wake of the wave of sightings that ushered in the modern era of UFO sightings.

When he more formally embraced the UFO mystery, he quickly took on significant roles. He was a senior vice president of UFO Phenomena Investigation Australia (UFOPIA) group from 1964 to 1968, as well as being an investigation officer from 1965 to 1968. Occult perspective's began to intrude into UFOPIA's activities leading Vladimir to decide that there were better ways to approach the UFO subject. In December, 1968, with Crystal Walsh, he founded UFO Research (SA) Inc. The main focus of this group was to promote a serious scientific approach to the UFO subject, something Vladimir saw as sorely lacking in a lot of other groups. A rationalisation of the various groups in South Australia followed with Vladimir's group emerging with its original vision intact. UFO Research (SA) Inc also pioneered a more business like approach to UFO research rather than "the UFO club syndrome" that dominated the civilian response to the subject. Vladimir produced 37 editions of the UFOR (SA) newsletter from 1976 to 1980.

By 1980 Vladimir saw that the time was right to launch a higher profile national vision for UFO research in Australia. He utilised his excellent administrative and publishing skills to produce the UFO Research Australia Newsletter (UFORAN) as a vehicle for quality research from around the country. UFORAN first appeared in 1980 and went on to provide an outstanding outlet for UFO investigation and research.

To read through the 23 editions that Vladimir published is to embrace a remarkable tribute to his achievements. They are a testimony in content and quality of Vladimir's burning desire to give wider expression to what he saw as important and reliable material - the distillation of Australian UFO research.

For a period around 1982, Vladimir was administrator for the Australian Centre for UFO Studies (ACUFOS). He helped to inject into ACUFOS a range of measures that improved the resource function of ACUFOS. Ultimately however he and others withdrew from ACUFOS frustrated by the politics and impediments that were affecting much of Australian ufology at that time.

In response Vladimir established UFO Research Australia (UFORA) in 1984 which championed a scientifically orientated networking approach. Those of us who embraced this approach saw its clear advantages and have seen the measurable progress in Australian UFO research.

Vladimir led the way in embracing other forms of communicating our labours to a wider audience. He quickly utilised the electronic bulletin board concept using a network of personal computers amongst Australian researchers. This allowed researchers to tap into the international Internet community and glimpse the future. Access to the Paranet bulletin board, electronic mail (E-mail), and rapid communications of research data have allowed a growing number of researchers the benefits of a greatly enriched horizon of knowledge. While he championed this excursion into cyberspace he also led a critical response to its excesses and problems.

With his wife, Pony, he coordinated the development of a digital book on UFO research in Australia and New Zealand - essentially the "best" of UFORAN's fine publishing record. Anyone who examines the "UFO Research in Australia and New Zealand" digital book published by Dynamo House will quickly see the depth of research Vladimir and Pony distilled into it. While it contains the research endeavours of a number of researchers it was Vladimir's and Pony's vision that got it there.

Vladimir's achievements are legion and they will not be forgotten. Pony shared his vision and passionate embrace of the UFO mystery.

Pony's loss, and that of his daughter, Kaye, and his son, Grant, and ours will be softened by the measure of Vladimir's legacy. Vladimir's legacy of extraordinary efforts liberates us and assists us to contemplate the mystery of UFOs.

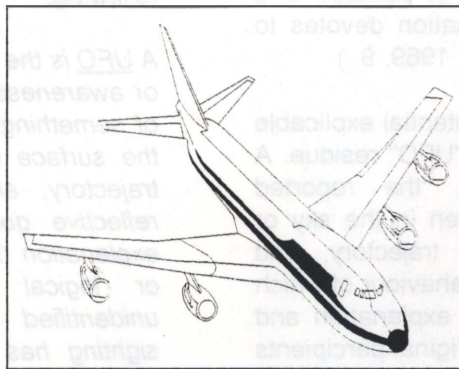
- Bill Chalker -



# Close Encounters with Unknown Missiles

The first incident in our list took place over the British mainland, on June 1, 1991, and at 1438 hours. A Britannia Airways Boeing 737 was bound from Dublin to London-Heathrow descending at 8,000 feet on a 110 degrees heading. The two pilots both saw the unknown object for a very brief period of only 1-2 seconds. It was seen through the windscreen and disappeared very rapidly down the port side.

The flight officer described the missile (?) as a yellow-orange cylindrical body with a possible "wrinkled appearance". The size was estimated to be about 10 feet. The pilots theorised that it might have been a meteorological balloon, but the closure rate seemed very rapid for a stationary object. The CAA committee considered the weather balloon theory improbable, but one member thought that the "wrinkled" appearance of the body could suggest an advertising balloon that had broken away, although none had been reported. The case is still considered unidentified.



## The Dan Air Case.

Four passengers on board Dan Air flight DA 4700 from London (Gatwick) to Hamburg saw yet another of the unknown missiles on June 17, 1991. The wingless projectile passed below and to the left (north) of the Boeing 737. The missile appeared to be flying at an altitude of 4-5000 feet just above the cloud layers. In Hamburg the passengers notified the flight crew and a report was written.

The main witness was a German engineer Walter Liess. He was seated by a window and saw, at about 1830 hours, a flying object without wings and with no vapour trail. "The object was slender, grey, and, so it seemed, sort of cigar-shaped. Its flight path was on a parallel course with ours but diametrically opposed. The object flew over the cloud-deck and under our aircraft; the object seemed to oscillate in altitude. Its possible the object was standing still and only gave the impression of movement (i.e. relative motion). The object was estimated to be visible for 2-3 minutes."

The Dan Air crew had not seen the object, but three other passengers did.

## The Britannia Encounter

A few months later, on July 15, 1991, another Britannia Airways Boeing 737 on a holiday flight from Crete to Gatwick (London) had a similar encounter at 17.45 hours in the evening. Descending at 15,000 feet the co-pilot caught sight of a "small black, lozenge shaped object" some 500 meters ahead

and above. The object was on a collision course and within two seconds it passed the aircraft's wing at a distance of only 100 meters at less than 10 meters above the wing. No impact or "wake" was felt by the crew and the passengers were not alerted. The pilot assessed the risk of collision as high.

When reported to London air Traffic Control Centre the missile was picked up on radar moving away from the aircraft. It was moving at 100 miles per hour in a south easterly direction and was no known traffic since it had no transponder to identify it. Another aircraft was warned since the unknown target appeared to change heading towards it, but the other aircraft saw nothing. The radar target might, however, have been a helicopter on a lower level.

The sighted object was small, some, 1.5 feet in diameter, very smooth and roundish. A balloon, meteorological or toy, was suspected but this does not conform with the radar reports of an object moving at 100 mph - if that was the unknown object. The official report still regarded the unknown object as "untraced".

## The United Airlines Case.

The pilots of United Airlines' flight 934, a Boeing jumbo jet, were witnesses in the most recent incident, on August 5, 1992. They were on route from Los Angeles to London and the sighting occurred some 50 miles NE of George Air Force Base at about 13.45 in the afternoon. The 747 was at 23,000 feet departing from Los Angeles on a 40 degree heading.

Suddenly an unusual aircraft came directly towards the aircraft and passed under them at an estimated 500-1,000 feet. During several seconds the crew got the impression of "a lifting body configuration, and they described it as looking like the forward fuselage of a Lockheed SR-71-without wings but with a tail of sorts." the edges of the fuselage were rounded instead of sharp. The size was estimated to be similar to an F-16 (some 50 feet long). Speed was considered as supersonic.

The Defence Department and the Air Force denied any knowledge but added: "we're not the only ones with strange projects", referring to the CIA and other organisations.

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PO Box 11027, S-600 11, Norrköping,  
Sweden.



# WHAT IS A UFO ?

by Mark Moravec.

When scientists initiate a study of a particular subject, they usually begin by defining what they are studying. This acts to focus the research effort as well as to ensure that different researchers are communicating about the same phenomena.

Condon defined a UFO "as the stimulus for a report made by one or more individuals of something seen in the sky (or an object thought to be capable of flight but seen when landed on earth) which the observer could not identify as having an ordinary natural origin, and which seemed to him sufficiently puzzling that he undertook to make a report of it to police, to government officials, to the press, or perhaps to a representative of a private organisation devoted to the study of such objects" (Condon, 1969, 9.)

Hynek differentiated between the potential explicable "UFO report" and the unexplained "UFO" residue. A "UFO" was hence defined as "the reported perception of an object or light seen in the sky or upon the land the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest logical, congenial explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible" (Hynek, 1974, 26.)

The Condon definition has been criticised as being too general, allowing countless events to be referred to as UFOs and implying that all can be identified. Hynek's definition excludes potentially relevant unexplained phenomena which appear not as objects or which appear underwater. Because of these perceived shortcomings, some researchers have suggested the need for a new definition.

The British-based Working Party on Standards in UFO Research suggested the following definition for a "UFO Report": "A statement by a person or persons judged responsible and psychologically normal by commonly accepted standards, describing a personal or instrumentally aided perception of a phenomena and/or its assumed physical effects, that does not specify any known physical event, object or process or any psychological event or process". A "UFO" is defined as: "The stimulus giving rise to the UFO report" (Hill, 1979, 2.)

The Working Party definition can be criticised as being so general that it could be applied to sub-microscopic quantum particles, the Loch Ness monster or just about anything else that is vaguely anomalous.

Probably the main reason for the difficulty in defining the term "UFO" is because we are dealing with an "unidentified"; an unknown. Consequently, we are not sure what range of phenomena is covered by the label "UFO" and we are not sure of what subjects are relevant to our inquiry. A possible way of overcoming these difficulties is by formulating two definitions. One definition would narrowly specify what we understand to be a UFO. The other definition would apply to the act of studying UFO phenomena, i.e. a definition of ufology.

For a definition of "UFO" I would suggest the following:

*A UFO is the stimulus behind the reported perception or awareness of an object, light source or presence of something; in the sky, upon the land or beneath the surface of a body of water; the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic, luminescent or reflective qualities of which do not suggest an explanation that conforms with current conventional or logical explanations and which remains unidentified after all evidence surrounding the sighting has been studied by technically capable persons.*

(This is an edited and modified version of the definition suggested by Haines, 1980, 22.)

Next, a definition for ufology:

*Ufology is the scientific study of UFOs and related phenomena.*

So there we have a specific definition of a "UFO". And our definition of ufology is sufficiently general to allow us to be flexible in both our choice of events to study, and our choice of the disciplines (fields of knowledge) relevant to our inquiry. This flexibility is necessary because we do not yet know the cause of UFO manifestations nor which exact approaches will lead to the ultimate solution of this mystery.

## References:

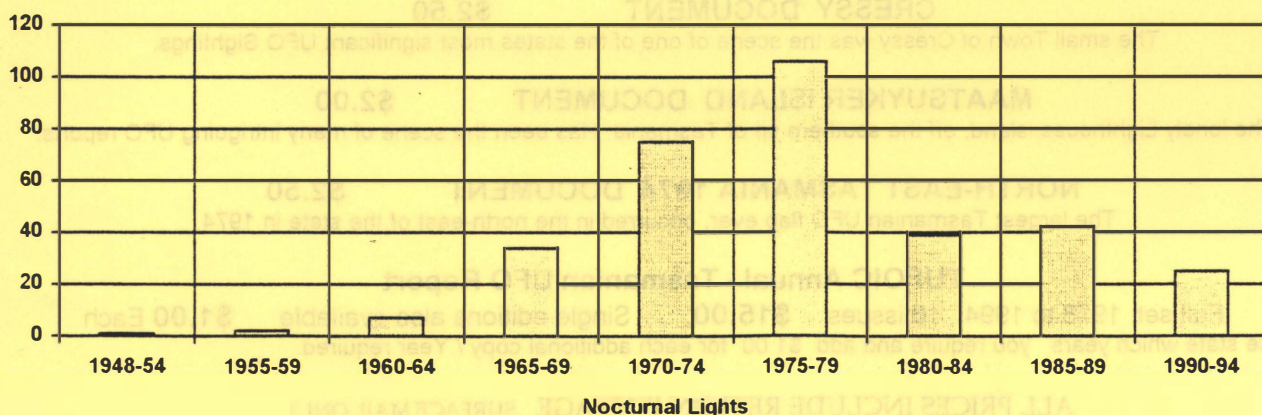
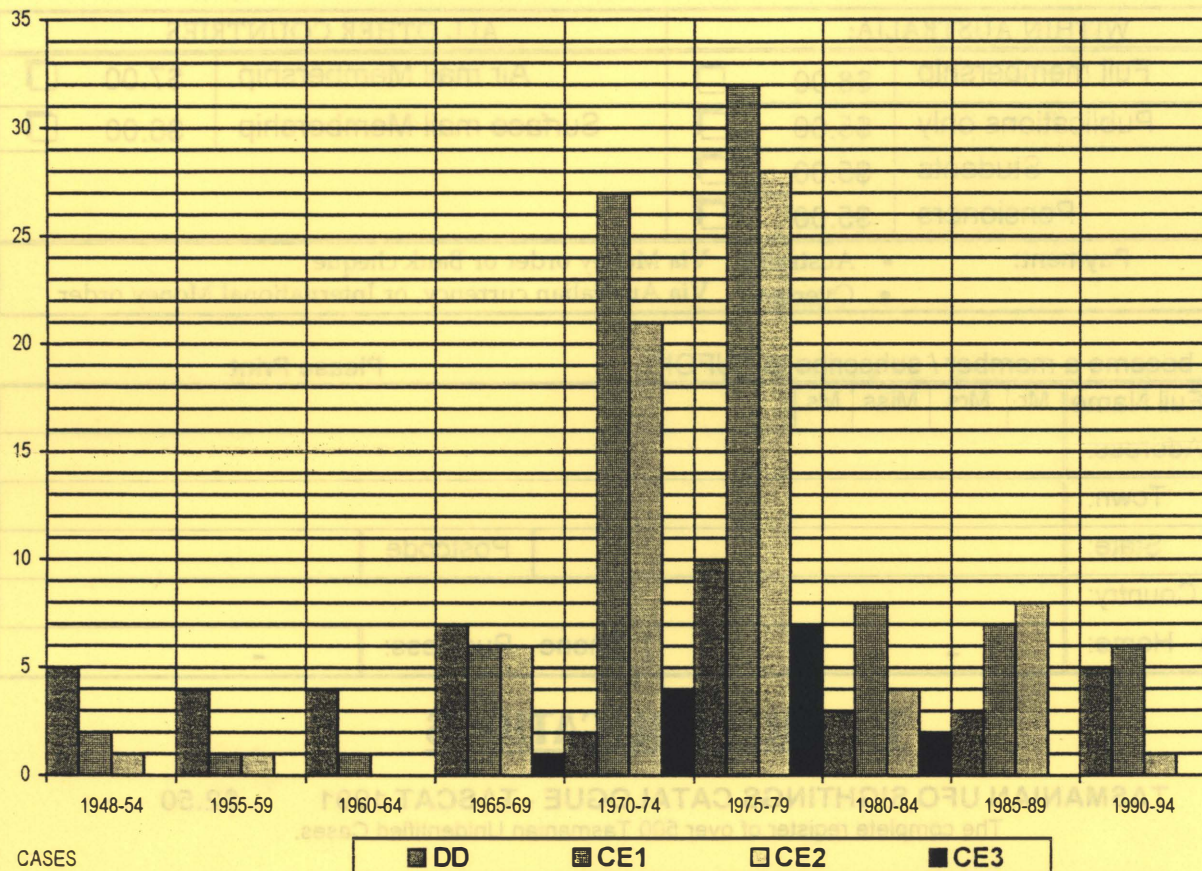
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# TUFOIC SIGHTINGS STATISTICS

## 5 YEAR BREAKDOWN BY TYPE.

Year	NL	DD	CE1	CE2	CE3	Total
1948-54	1	5	2	1	0	9
1955-59	2	4	1	1	0	8
1960-64	7	4	1	0	0	12
1965-69	34	7	6	6	1	54
1970-74	75	2	27	21	4	129
1975-79	106	10	32	28	7	183
1980-84	39	3	8	4	2	56
1985-89	42	3	7	8	0	60
1990-94	25	5	6	1	0	36





# TUFOIC MEMBERSHIP

TUFOIC is a serious minded civilian organisation that attempts to investigate all UFO reports, in a scientific, objective and unbiased manner, and make reliable information available on the UFO subject.

As a group, the centre draws no conclusions from its investigations, other than the fact that a so far unexplained phenomenon exists, and requires extensive research and rigorous investigation.

Reports that are considered authentic, after thorough investigation, are forwarded to UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA, where they are included in an Australian computer Database file.

TUFOIC is based in Hobart, with representatives / investigators in various areas around the state. Contact is maintained with fellow organisations around Australia, and Overseas. Publications are exchanged with these groups in an attempt to gain a world-wide picture of the UFO phenomena.

Membership of TUFOIC is open to all persons seriously interested in the UFO subject.

For those not wishing to become full members, but still wish to be kept informed on the subject, a publications only subscription is available.

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